

# Hurricane Weather Advisory for Construction Sites

## *Act Now to Reinforce your BMPs to Prepare for Multiple Impacts*

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As we enter hurricane season, there exists the possibility that sites in development will be adversely impacted, regardless of the measures that are in place to control stormwater and sediment runoff. However, proper planning can minimize damage and the work effort to restore the site to pre-storm conditions. Below are some suggestions for pre-storm preparation, and conditions under which land-disturbing activities may be necessary.

### **Suggested Actions Prior to the Storm Include:**

- Cease any new grading or land disturbances that will not be paved or otherwise structurally stabilized. The freshly exposed bare soil will not have time to stabilize prior to the storm.
- Secure any construction materials that may become airborne during the storm.
- Haul away waste materials.
- Seal and secure or otherwise protect containers holding equipment fluids, liquid building material waste, flocculants, herbicides, pesticides, rodenticides, or other hazardous or toxic wastes from leaks or spills. Hazardous materials should be removed from the site if they cannot be contained in an enclosed building and stored away from windows.
- Dewater sediment basins in a manner permitted by your E&SC Plan Authority.
- Ensure emergency spillways on basins and traps are fully functional. Secure any loose filter fabric, rock, or liners.
- Clean out culverts, outfalls, inlets, ditches, or other conveyances as needed to prevent clogging. Ensure outfalls are stabilized per your approved plan.
- Catch basins or curb inlets with inserts used to filter sediment from the storm drain system can be temporarily removed to prevent street flooding.
- Complete, as time permits, any restoration efforts underway in streams, buffers, wetlands, etc.
- Secure or temporarily remove document boxes and their contents.



## **After the Storm:**

- Do not touch any downed powerlines or equipment in contact with powerlines.
- Avoid driving or working in flooded areas or non-workable soils. Be on the lookout for washed-out or undermined roads. Avoid bodily contact with floodwaters.
- Check and record rain gauges. If the gauge has been damaged, document the reasoning for it and why you are unable to obtain an accurate reading from this source. Precipitation estimates for your region may be found online.
- Report any spills, sediment releases into jurisdictional waters, unanticipated by-passes to stormwater devices, upsets, or non-compliance issues that may endanger health or the environment to the appropriate DEQ Regional Office within 24 hours of discovery.
- Repair or replace damaged waste or fluid containers.
- Clean and reinstall any catch basin or curb inlet inserts removed prior to the storm.
- Clean up off-site sedimentation immediately (excluding that released into riparian buffers or jurisdictional waters needing a restoration plan).
- Reinstall the document box, if removed prior to the storm.
- Remove debris from culverts, outfalls, inlets, ditches, or other conveyances on the project, and evaluate for stability. Make necessary repairs.
- Repair any damaged erosion and sediment control measures to restore their full functionality in accordance with the plan.



## **Emergencies:**

Repairs made to protect human life, and which involve land-disturbing activities are considered emergency repairs. Such repairs may be made without prior approval. In accordance with 15A NCAC 04B.0130, you shall notify the DEQ Director of the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, or his/her designee, of such repairs as soon as reasonably possible, but in no event later than five (5) working days after the emergency ends. Additionally, you shall take all measures necessary to protect all public and private property from damage caused by your repair as soon as possible, but no later than fifteen (15) working days after the emergency ends. Under emergency conditions, approval without a permit may be given on a case-by-case basis to discharge pumped stormwater to surface waters in an effort to minimize flooding. The definition of "Emergency Conditions" is water on streets at a depth of 14 inches that restricts emergency vehicles from responding to the needs of the public. Contact the DEQ office in your region for assistance.

